

Washington, DC - Congresswoman Betty McCollum (MN-4), Minnesota's Member on the House Appropriations Committee, today released the following statement in response to the announcement that Minnesota faces a projected \$5.2 billion budget deficit over the next 2 years:

"The announcement that the State of Minnesota is facing a massive budget disaster means Governor Pawlenty has some tough choices to make. He can go it alone and eviscerate the safety net an ever growing number of Minnesota families depend upon for their daily needs. Or, the governor can reach out in a spirit of partnership to the Minnesota Congressional delegation to work collaboratively, along with legislative leaders, to responsibly find solutions to the state's fiscal mess."

Congresswoman Betty McCollum (MN-4) serves on the Appropriations Committee and the Oversight and Government Reform Committee.